

Enhancement Committee
Feb. 2, 2005

Present: Sue Gilmore
Mimi Babcock
Dolores Holland
Andy Durbridge
Lisa Coon
Nan Seeburger
Vicki Doyle
Mary Ann Wilkens

Façade: Leo Blackman is available for free architectural advice. It was unfortunate Sonoco wasn't given better architectural advice because they could have saved some money and achieved better results.

K. Dunlop: New owner of Fountain Press is going to make improvements, wants to be involved, know about façade plan. Press release is needed to get information out to public about what resources we have. B. Carroll suggested face-to-face meetings with merchants. Perhaps once have discount from Dill's, can send direct letter, and let Dill's know we will be promoting them as sponsors. Could publicize in business section of paper. Press releases should also go to chamber commerce.

NY Main St. Grant – V. Doyle reported that the Town was not awarded its streetscape and façade improvement grant application of \$125,000. Discussion ensued as to whether it should be resubmitted for the next round of applications.

Streetscape – Nan, Dolores, Stan, and Vicki met to outline sidewalk project. Andy summarized, Stan gave input on how much it would cost, how to do it.

Safety – Rail Trail parking issues should be treated as a separate project. Vicki needs to talk to HVRT about their plans for additional parking in Wassaic and Amenia. At meeting, land was identified on Mechanic St. and other parcels that might be available for parking, including State DOT land on Old Route 22 near rail trail. Would we consider adding trees there? Since residential, perhaps trees would be appropriate. How toxic is site? Trees would improve aesthetics and offset pollution of cars. B. Carroll – could get 75 cars on it. Is very close, would help keep Mechanic St. un-blocked. Potential problem is hazardous waste. DPW and HVRT could help with getting State to cooperate on parking needs. Lisa: parking is the issue already. Have to get there at 6 am to get a space. Should bring this up at Town Board workshop; ask their support in the form of a resolution: Explore all options for expanded rail trail.

Engineering: Last 500' need more information. Rich Rennie is available for free engineering opinion on Tues., Feb. 8. Need full project location before add in the aesthetics of trees. We

need to decide full parameters of project before going to contract.

Communication & Development – Nan Seeburger: Ad for webmaster now on website. E-mail Dr. Johns with job advertisements for students. Technology Fair is April 8, 10-5, was designed to bring clean, non-polluting businesses to valley. Focal point this year is investment in our youth, scholarship. In dialogue with IBM to participate to draw business, interest into Amenia. Have some exhibitors already signed up. Next Chamber meeting is at Sharon Hospital Feb. 16 at 5:30 (every third Wednesday). Report was submitted.

Townscape : Planters some need replacement. A suggestion was made that BOCES, Maplebrook or Kildonan might repair them as a carpentry project. D. Holland – did put more barrels out in the past, but broken ones were not taken away. At Sears, 4 containers no one takes care of can be replaced elsewhere. Pots are \$29 and will last 8 years if not moved around. Resin one at Fountain Square has been there 5 years and is OK. Whiskey barrels are not expensive and last. But if changing streetscape vocabulary, then we might rethink the style. But since Main Street is not imminent, this is not such an issue. Susan is willing to do a survey to see what is salvageable. Sue has been helping along and is now Chairwoman, planning on ordering plants. Need to build all elements now for effective planting session. Planting day usually happens the Saturday of Memorial Day; it is risky to do before Memorial Day. ARC, Maplebrook and Wassaic are usually available for volunteers. Vicki will find out exact amount of Town funds that are available for plantings and barrels, Dolores is co-signer on Townscape checking account with Wayne. The need to change this private group's account name from Townscape to something else was discussed again in order for the public not to link this fundraising account to the Townscape committee.

July 16 will be the garden tour headed by Diana King. More information is needed – invite Diana King for Mar. 2, next meeting.

Town decorations should come down. Andy has large carton for decorations. Firemen need to be contacted. Vicki will contact Enhancement committee members for assistance. Collette will contact Chamber members.

Notes respectfully submitted by

Vicki Doyle